MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Madam, I move:

"That in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), read with sub-rule 2 of rule 4 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the National Shipping Board in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri Sukomal Sen from the membership of the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, 1988."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Short supply of foodgrains to West Bengal

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up special mentions. Yes, Shri Sunil Basu Ray.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I want to bring to the notice of this House great concern of the people of West Bengal regarding the supply of rice, wheat and sugar by the Central Government in the month of April 1988. As it has come out in the press, on the 21st April, 1988, the Food and Civil Supplies Minister, Shri Nirmal Basu told the West Bengal Assembly that the Central Government had sent only 80 thousand metric tonnes of rice instead of the 126 thousand metric tonnes, which is the usual quota per month. Again, instead of 66 rail rakes carrying food stocks to West Bengal, only 15 rakes had been sent and only 8 were carrying rice and wheat. As a result, different areas, including the industrial areas of Durgapur, Asansol, Cooch-Behar, Jalpaiguri, West Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Nadia, Bankura, Beerbhum. Purulia were experiencing shortage of wheat and sugar quota. Sugar quota was also not sent up to the mark. Seventeen rakes were to be sent to West Bengal. But only 12 reached West Bengal up to the 19th April. Now Madam, I wish to draw your attention to the newspaper reports which report the statement made by the Food Minister in the other House. It has come out in the National Herald of today. The Food Minister has said that West Bengal and Kerala are not off-taking food as per the quota. The Central Food Minister's statement is not correct. He should check it up with the West Bengal Government and ensure that full supplies are made to the State.

Next, Madam, the Food Minister should assure this House that West Bengal will not be deprived of its usual quota and whatever shortages are there, they will be sent to West Bengal immediately. With these words, Madam, I conclude. Thank you.

Humiliating treatment meted out to an Indian journalist in Kabul

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, 25 अप्रैल के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में एक खबर छपी है उस खबर को पढ़ने के बाद कोई भी स्वाभिमानी भारतीय नहीं होगा जिसके हृदय पर चोट पहुंचे बिना रहेगी। भारत सरकार उसको किस रूप में लेती है, इसकी जानकारी अभी तक नहीं मिली है। आज से 6 दिन पहले काबुल में एक त्रिपक्षीय वार्ता हुई जिसमें अमरीकन, रूसी और अफगान रूसी और अफगान के प्रतिनिधि थे। समाचार प्रसारण के लिए वहां दुनिया के अनेक देश के पत्रकार आमंत्रित थे। उस कांफ्रेंस में रशन टैप्स की विजिट करने का कार्यक्रम बना। जब हेलीकॉप्टर के साथ कुछ पत्र-